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The Translation Accuracy of Words, Phrases and Clauses Accommodating Graduation in of Mice and Men into Tikus Dan Manusia

Vesi Cahyani; M.R. Nababan; Riyadi Santosa

Department of Linguistics, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia

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Abstract

This study aims to assess the translation quality in term of accuracy level of words, phrases, and clauses accommodating graduation that represent the main character in *Of Mice and Men*. This research uses descriptive qualitative method. The source data are document and informants. The documents are novel entitled *Of Mice and Men* and its Indonesian translation entitled *Tikus dan Manusia* by Ariyanti E. Tarman. Then, the informants are raters who assess the translation quality. The data were collected through content analysis and focus group discussion using assessment proposed by Nababan. There are 106 data found in this research. Out of 106 data, 104 (98.1%) were accurately translated, and 2 data (1.9%) were inaccurately translated since there were deletion in the target language. It also led to the scaling down of the evaluation. The accuracy score is 2.9 which means that the accuracy level is high.

Keywords: Accuracy Assessment; Appraisal; Graduation; Translation

Introduction

Novel is a literary work dealing with someone's experience in life with other people. It is constructed by some important elements: theme, plot, character and characterization, setting, point of view, and symbol (Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 68) Characters play an important role in novel since they build a series of events to create a story. Abrams (1999) states that characters are people in the story having moral, intellectual, and emotional quality which is realized in what they say and what they do. The author describes their characteristic, attitude, and behavior to give a brief image to the readers through words, phrases, and clauses. How strong or how weak a character is determined by author's evaluation which is known as appraisal (Martin & Rose, 2007).

Appraisal is an interpersonal system used in negotiating social relations between speakers and listeners or readers about the writer's feelings towards things or people's attitudes (Martin & Rose, 2007). Attitude is gradable. It means that the evaluation can be raised and lowered or strengthen and blurred which in appraisal theory is called graduation. In translated novel, the translator's evaluation must be the same as the writer's evaluation so that the readers have the same assessment of a particular character and the message that the author wishes to convey. It matters to the translators since they need to understand the author's word of choice and present it in target language well (Munday, 2012).

As stated by Newmark, (1988: 5) translation is the transfer of messages from the source language into other languages as intended by the author. The intent or purpose of the author in the source language is the main issue of whether the meaning is appropriate or not in the target language. The message the author wants to convey in the source language must be equivalent with the message in the target language. Further Nida and Taber (1982: 12) define translation as reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message. In this case the translator should find the most equivalent meaning in the target language. It deals with the message the writer wants to convey to create a certain effect when they describe the characters in novel.

To say how strongly a character is in a novel, assessment can be made more or less intense (force) and sharper or blurrer (focus). Force is to turn volume up or down and focus is to sharpen or soften categories of people or things (Martin & Rose, 2007). Force includes intensifier, attitudinal lexis, metaphor, and swearing. Intensifier consists of words that intensify attitudes such as *very/really/extremely*. Comparison also shows intensifier implicitly such as in the word *better* which is compared to *worse* to evaluate the worth of things or person. Attitudinal lexis are vocabularies having degree of intensity such as *happy/delighted/ecstatic*. There is degree of happiness which the amplification is fused into the word (Martin & Rose, 2007). Metaphor is aimed to compare an object either directly (He came out *like a jack in a box*) or indirectly (The cloud *drifted* across the sky) (Martin and White, 2005). Anderssen and Trudgill (1990) define swearing as taboo in society so that it cannot be expressed directly. Besides it is used to express strong feeling or emotion such as *damn* and *crazy*. Focus consists of words for making something non-gradable gradable. The categorical boundary is clear. It cannot be measured but can be strengthened (Martin & White, 2005). The following example shows how focus works. Jesse met a *true friend* at school. It is assumed that Jesse has never have a true friend before. *True* gives high evaluation since it sharpens the category of friend. In contrast, the category of focus can also be lowered by using phrases like *kind of* and *sort of*.

Researches on appraisal have been conducted by some researchers such as Widya (2008) and Ngongo (2017) who examined the distribution of attitude, graduation, and engagement in different kinds of text. Alsina, Espunya and Naro (2017) also examined appraisal in the term of engagement to determine translator position by comparing English novel *Mansfield Park* to German and Spanish version. Further Keshavarz1 and Fumani (2012) and Li (2015) examined appraisal in source language and the target language but the research only focused on the distribution of the evaluation appeared in both languages. Since previous researches examining translated version did not discuss about the quality of the translation, it is important to expand the scope to evaluate the appraisal in target language in term of the accuracy.

Methodology

This study belongs to descriptive qualitative. The purpose is to describe the accuracy of words, phrases, and clauses accommodating graduation in Indonesian translation. The data were collected through content analysis and focus group discussion. The documents are novel entitled *Of Mice and Men* and its Indonesian translation entitled *Tikus dan Manusia* by Ariyanti E. Tarman. Then, informants are raters who assess the translation quality. Purposive sampling is used to determine the data source, informant and data collection based on the theory approach. The data are analyzed through domain, taxonomy, and componential analysis to portray cultural value (Santosa, 2017). In collecting data, attitude criteria are used to select the words, phrases, and clauses. Then the data are classified into force (attitudinal lexis, intensifier, metaphor and swearing) and focus. The accuracy of the translation then is analyzed through translation quality assessment proposed by Nababan et al (2012).

Table 1. Assessment Instrument for Translation Accuracy

Translation category	Score	Quality parameter
Accurate	3	The meaning of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, or Source Text translated accurately into Target Text; without any distortion of meaning.
Less Accurate	2	Most of the meaning of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, or Source Text translated accurately into Target Text; although there is some distortion of meaning, double meaning translation, or omission that interfere with the message.
Inaccurate	1	The meaning of words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, or Source Texts are not accurately translated into Target Text or deleted in the Target Text.

Result and Discussion

Table 2. Graduation distribution in novel *Of Mice and Men*

Force		Scale	
		Up	Down
Resource	Intensifier	29	2
	Attitudinal Lexis	60	0
	Metaphor	9	0
	Swearing	6	0
Total Data		104	2
		106	

Based on the data analysis, there are 106 data found in this research. The data are then classified into force and focus. The classification of force is as follows: thirty-one data as intensifiers, sixty data as attitudinal lexis, nine data as metaphor and six data as swearing. One hundred and four data are scaling up and two are scaling down. No focus category is found in the data.

In term of accuracy, it is found that 104 data are considered accurate which means that the accuracy score is 3 and only 2 data are considered inaccurate. The samples of the data are shown below.

1. Accurate

Data no 16/6/SL/15/14/TL

SL : Lennie **hesitated**, backed away, looked wildly at the brush line as though he contemplated running for his freedom.

TG : Lennie **ragu** sejenak, mundur, menatap liar ke sepanjang semak-semak, seolah-olah sedang mempertimbangkan untuk lari membebaskan diri.

From data number 16, there is an evaluation source *hesitated*. The data shown that the attitudinal lexis *hesitate* is translated as *ragu* in Indonesian. The translator has translated the meaning accurately so there is no shift in target language. Both show Lennie's insecurity.

Data 29/9/SL/29/23/TL

SL : Lennie was **delighted**. "That it-that's it. Now tell how it is with us."

TG : Lennie **begitu senang**. "Itu dia-itu dia. Sekarang ceritakan kita akan bagaimana."

There is a degree of happiness in the word *delighted* which is defined as *very happy*. It means that the degree of evaluation is fused in the lexis. *Very* intensifies the feeling of happy which in Indonesian means *sangat*. This word is translated *begitu senang* which has the same meaning as *sangat senang*.

Data 84/39/SL/84/86/TG

SL : Lennie's hands remained at his sides; he was *too frightened* to defend himself.

TL : Tangan Lennie berada di sisi; dia *terlalu takut* untuk membela diri.

The word *too* shows Lennie's excess of fear when he is hit brutally by his rival. It scales up the feeling and this word has the same meaning as *terlalu* in Indonesian.

Data 17/6/SL/17/17/TL

SL : Slowly, **like a terrier who doesn't want to bring a ball to its master**,
Lennie approached, drew back, approached again.

TG : Lambat-lambat, **seperti anjing terrier yang tidak mau membawa bola kembali ke tuannya**, Lennie mendekat, mundur, mendekat lagi.

In this novel, Lennie is described as an adult who is fond of rodent as toys. This metaphor shows Lennie's reluctance and unhappiness when he is asked to give his toy - a dead mouse. Lennie's strong feeling on his toy is compared to a terrier and its ball. In translating metaphor, a translator should be aware due to the implicit meaning. In this case the translator translated it word by word but the meaning is understandable and accurate.

Data 2/3/SL/2/11/TL

SL : Jesus Christ. You're a **crazy bastard!**

TG : Ya Tuhan. Kau **keparat sinting!**

Lennie is so forgetful that he always asks and asks again to George about anything they have planned before. It always arises George's anger so that he often swears to Lennie. Bastard is an insulting word to describe people who are annoying due to bad habits. This swearing scales up Lennie's bad personality. It is accurately transferred into Indonesian *keparat sinting* which is commonly used as swearing.

2. *Inaccurate*

The data considered inaccurate are as follows

Data 35/13/SL/35/34/TL

SL : “No, he ain’t, but he’s sure *a hell of a good* worker.”

TL : “Tidak, tapi dia seorang pekerja *yang baik*.”

Data 42/14/SL/42/34/TL

SL : But I say he’s a *god damn good* worker.

TL : Tapi aku bilang dia pekerja *yang baik*.

Both data contain intensifier *a hell of* and *god damn* which means *very* to intensify how good the worker is. It should be translated *sangat* in Indonesian. Nevertheless, the translator did not translate the intensifiers. It leads to scale down the intensity of the worker. Due to the deletion of the intensifiers in the target language, the translation is considered inaccurate.

The correlation between graduation and the accuracy of the translation

Table 3. Componential analysis

Translation category	Total data	The translation quality average
accurate	104	2.9
inaccurate	2	
Total data	106	

From Table 3, it shows that the evaluation of graduation is translated accurately and inaccurately. The data translated accurately is higher than those translated inaccurately. The data are considered accurate since most words, phrases and clauses have been translated accurately in target language. The data considered inaccurate are caused by the deletion of intensifiers which impact to the meaning of the sentence. It also causes the scaling down of the force. As a result, there are shifts in target language.

Conclusion

From the discussion above, it is concluded that the accuracy of the translation is high. The average accuracy score is 2.9. It means that the translator has adapted the grammatical rules, context and also dictionary in Indonesian even though there are still phrases reduced by the translator.

The finding of this research suggests that translator should understand the evaluation of characters in novel in order to convey the writer’s intention. Further study can be carried out to assess the acceptability due to norms and cultures in Indonesian language.

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